Species facing extinction

1749. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) What are the names of species (animals and birds) in India which are facing extinction; and

(b) what steps are being taken for their preservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) 146 species of animals including 47 of birds are facing extinction. Their names are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 73]

(b) Steps taken include:

Regulation of trade and commerce in endangered species of fauna under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, under which strict penalties have been laid down for infringement.

63 National Parks and 358 Wild Life Sanctuaries have been set up for protection of threatened species of plants and animals and their diverse habitats.

13 sites have been identified for designation as "Biosphere Reserves" in which a wide spectrum of living resources would be conserved in their natural state. Of these, Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve has already been constituted.

Financial assistance from the Netherland

1750. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netherland Government has offered financial assistance to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Netherland has been extending financial assistance to India since 1963-64.

(b) The Netherland's assistance is provided on the basis of annual disbursement ceiling. This includes soft loan as well as grant The ceiling for 1987 and 1988 is given below:

	Soft loan	Grant	Total Annual Disbursement ceiling
1987 .	112	100	212
1988 .	105	99	204

The financial assistance is to be utilised for pre identified projects mainly in the field of water transport, agriculture, rural water supply, water resources, environment and energy.

Cleaning of rivers

1751 SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake cleaning of some more rivers besides Ganga during the next year; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) No specific proposal in this regard has been formulated. It is the intention that based on the experiences gained from the Ganga Action Plan, proposals for cleaning of